NORTH DAKOTA CHESS ASSOCIATION
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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS: My chess correspondence, by mail and telephone, frequently includes items of general interest to NDCA members.

MIDDLE-AGED WARRIOR. US Champion Robert Byrne has qualified as one of eight contenders for Bobby Fischer's world title, by virtue of his third-place finish in the Leningrad Interzonal. Two prominent Russians, the veteran Korchnoi and the sensational young Karpov, tied for first place with 13½ points each, out of a possible 17, while Byrne followed with 12½ and a wide 1½ point margin over the fourth-place winner, Smejkal. Dr. Popel points out that this result was something of a surprise (to observers outside of the U.S.?) because of the proven strength of such players as Larsen, Taimanov, Gligoric, and former-champion Tal, all of whom finished far behind the lone American representative. Apparently Byrne, now in his mid-fifties, is still improving and maturing his game. What a tiger he will be at 60 or 65!

Thus Karpov, Korchnoi and Byrne, together with the top three from the Brasilia Interzonal beginning July 20th, will join Spassky and Petrosian in the 1974 Candidates Matches. The latter two, who survived longest in the previous cycle, are automatically seeded into the eight-man competition to determine Fischer's challenger in the 1975 title match.

TOURNAMENT RULES. USCF Secy. Martin E. Morrison advises that a pocket-sized copy of the newly revised USCF Tournament Rules will be mailed "very soon" to every USCF member.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM. Effective July 1, 1973, a tournament director must be tested and certified by USCF before he can direct or report a rated tournament. At present roughly 1000 tournament directors across the nation have completed or are now completing the certification examinations, including NDCA members Ron Benjamin, John Graham, Dan Wanner, and myself. North Dakota needs more than four TDs, in my opinion, and since the four named above reside in Bismarck, Grand Forks, and Fargo-Moorhead, I would particularly like to see certified TDs in other population centers. Request that interested persons contact me, or write directly to: Martin E. Morrison, TDCP; 479 Broadway; Newburgh, N.Y. 12550

F-M COMMUNITY CHESS CLUB. NDSU Prof. Jan Branthaver reports that his new chess club has received a gratifying reception from local players, and invites all of us to drop in for a game or two. The F-MCCC meets every Tuesday at 7:30PM in the Newman Center, 1141 N University, Fargo. We'll be there, Jan.

GRAND FORKS TOURNAMENT. Please check the last page announcement of the Mel Johnson Commemorative, and note that John Graham offers special motel rates if you act immediately.

NORTH DAKOTA OPEN. Ron Schauer writes to inquire whether the North Dakota Open can't be held in the Bismarck-Mandan area, under the auspices of Ron Benjamin and the outstanding Central Dakota Chess Club. Certainly it can (and probably should) move to different locations from year to year - - - but not this year. The tournament announcement was mailed to CL&R some time ago, and to change it now would cost us our best publicity. Bids for next year's Open should be submitted to the NDCA Board of Directors on Oct 21, 1973, together with information on (a) site and facilities, (b) guaranteed prize fund, and (c) expected numbers of local and distant players. No doubt the Board of Directors will consider these and other factors in an effort to make our state-wide tournaments, such as the ND Open and the NDCA High School Championship, equal or superior to those in neighboring states.

The 1973 ND Open is scheduled for Oct 20, 21, and 22 (Veteran's Day weekend) at the NDSU Memorial Union. It will have six rounds, at 12:30-7:00, 12:30-7:00, and 08:30-3:00, for a prize fund of $1000. In keeping with the published Minutes of the

1st Annual Meeting on Oct 8, 1972, Annual Meetings for 1973 will be held on the morning of Oct 21st. Further details and entry blanks will appear in the next Newsletter.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING. Several communications indicate that one result of the growth of organized chess has been date and geographic conflicts in tournament scheduling. The USCF Policy Board has ruled that tournaments using the same dates should be at least 75 miles apart. Eliminating local and regional conflicts will be a responsibility of state organizations, and under our NDCA Constitution the NDCA Directors "shall formulate a program of activities for the Association" (Article V). To "formulate a program" for the coming year will be a prime task of the NDCA Directors at their Annual Meeting in October, and I hope every chess club in North Dakota will appoint a Director to attend that meeting. I think our first goal should be a tournament per month in our state, and individual clubs can be assigned months, if not specific dates, to hold their tournaments. It is one way to avoid conflicts, and it also allows a club to meet the 12-weeks-in-advance requirement for publication in CL&R.

US OPEN. Senior Master Dick Verber of the Chicago Chess Club, he of the princely girth and royal cordiality, asks us to remind each other that the US Open will be played in Chicago this year, August 12-24. While the whole world probably knows that by now, Dick also mentions that this is an opportunity to meet some of the big names in American chess, and that the USCF Annual Meetings, both Directors and General Membership, are held in conjunction with the Open. I am planning to make those meetings (Aug 20 & 21) even if I don't play in the tournament, and I do hope to see some of you there. I'll buy a suitable beverage for any North Dakotan who shows up, and we'll talk about chess and chess players. Maybe Dick Verber will join us. AMT.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS. Do you play serious chess games as often as you want to? You are unusual if you do. I know there have been several weekends when I would have liked to play in a tournament but there wasn't one available. The way to improve your chess is to play the better players, and here that usually means to have a tournament. Yet, for a variety of reasons it is impossible to have a tournament every weekend here. I can think of three possible solutions: Move to New York, take up flying, or play postal chess. On grounds of esthetics and economics I have chosen the third.

Not everybody will admit being a postal player. Some of us who do seem a bit nutty. Few people want to look at someone else's postal games. Few postalites can resist showing them. Who's that fellow sitting off in the corner shifting chess pieces around? Watch out. He may bite if you come near. He's a postal player with a losing position. If he were winning you couldn't get rid of him. And why the look of supreme confidence on the patzer's face as he plays the club champion? "You see, I played a postal game in this variation just last year..."

No expensive equipment is necessary. I use a peg-in-miniature set for working on postal games (also for reading chess books), but any set will do. Postal "recorder albums" can be purchased from Chess Life and Review. I used to use one, but now don't bother. It is a good idea to write down the moves, but I don't generally do that either. I keep the cards on file for a record of the moves. That's necessary in any case. I simply remember the moves and go through the entire game when each card arrives. I have played over twenty games at a time that way. It takes less than a minute to reach the current position and the only problems come in the first few moves.

Special cards and stamp pads are unnecessary. I've had only one opponent in eight years who used them. I buy regular postcards, plus a few airmail for overseas opponents. There is no advantage in sending airmail cards in the continental U.S. Regular cards generally go airmail.

Where can you enter postal tournaments? One possibility is through Chess Life and Review. They have tournaments of three kinds that you can enter any time. It costs from $3.50 to $6.00 to enter, and you have to have access to occasional issues of CL&R to check results.

Another possibility is the American Correspondence Chess League, affiliated with the International C.C.L. There are various national and international tournaments available, and a publication called, I think, Chess Correspondent. I know little about it and don't even have the address. Can someone else write it up?

There are various postal chess clubs with various purposes. One I know well is the USO-ALL Service Postal Chess Club, better known as ASPC. Its main purpose is to provide postal chess for servicemen who are overseas or at any moment may be sent there. Membership costs $3.00 a year and a willingness to buy some airmail postcards. It's open to anyone. Most tournaments have no entry fee, thanks to some volunteer work. There is a variety of events, ranging from challenge matches to a three-round club championship. There is a rating system with results published in the bimonthly King's Korner. To join, write to Spencer P. Hurd, 1212 First Street SE, Moultrie, Ga. 31768

And now, one of my postal games (surely you expected this!)

W. Trosclair - D. Varvel, 1969 Armed Forces Postal Team Tournament

1.	P-Q4	N-KB3	
2.	P-QB4	P-KN3	
3.	N-QB3	B-N2	
4.	P-K4	P-Q3	
5.	B-K2	O-O	
6.	B-N5	P-B4	(By the time this game was over people were equalizing with P-KR3, and P-B4 was considered bad.)
7.	P-Q5	P-QR3	
8.	P-QR4	Q-R4	
9.	B-Q2	...	(9. Q-Q2? P-QN4! gives Black good play.)
	...	P-K3	
10.	N-B3	PxP	
11.	BPxP	...	(11. KPxP is supposed to lead to an advantage for White. When this game was started we didn't know that.)
	...	R-K1	
12.	O-O	Q-B2	
13.	Q-B2	B-N5	
14.	P-KR3	BxN	
15.	BxB	QN-Q2	
16.	P-R5	P-B5?!	(Recommended by Gligoric. This is where my book ended.)
17.	R-R4	N-K4?!	(Later I found that Gligoric's analysis continued P-QN4 18. PxP e.p. NxP and White has a slight advantage. When I played this move, I had "seen" my 23rd. As a matter of fact, I had already played out the remainder of the game, along with a number of other variations. Some people can do such things over the board. I can't.)
18.	B-K2	KN-Q2	
19.	P-KB4	...	(N-Q1-K3 could be tried.)
	...	N-Q6!	
20.	BxN	...	(This obvious move is bad. It seems to be the refutation to 17.. N-K4, but actually moves like B-K3 must be better.)
	...	PxB	
21.	QxP	N-B4	
22.	Q-B4	...	(If R-B4, then QxRP, without fear.)
	...	QR-B1!	
23.	QR-R1	NxKP!!	(A most unusual unmasking. White can keep even material with QxQ, but the ending is hopeless.)
24.	QxN	RxQ	
25.	NxR	BxP, and White resigned after a few more moves. DAV.	

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS: New NDCA officers will be elected at the Annual Membership Meeting on Oct 21. Please send your nominations to me so that I can publish them in the next Newsletter. Latest USCF ratings will also be listed in the next Newsletter, since the June Supplement (Cumulative) has not yet been received from USCF. DCW.